

Appl. No. 10/730,787
Amdt. dated June 22, 2006
Reply to Office action of March 22, 2006

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-11 (cancelled)

Claim 12 (original): A system for coupling first and second conduit sections, which includes:

a coupling with a generally cylindrical tubular configuration with opposite ends and a coupling bore extending between and open at said ends; said coupling bore having first and second sections adjacent said coupling ends respectively; and each said coupling bore section having multiple said annular coupling ribs with sawtooth-shaped cross-sectional configurations sloping inwardly and including annular engagement edges adapted for passing said conduit sections into said coupling through said coupling opposite ends and retaining same therein, said coupling bore including an annular stop located medially therein;

a coupling tool including a pair of lever arms each having a proximal handle end and a distal end;

said lever arms being pivotally interconnected intermediate their respective ends;

said coupling tool further including a pair of clamp assemblies each having a closed position adapted for clamping a respective conduit section inside the clamp assembly and an open position adapted for releasing the conduit section;

each said clamp assembly including a stationary jaw mounted on a respective lever arm distal end, a movable jaw hingedly mounted on said stationary jaw and a conduit receiver comprising first and second receiver portions each located on a respective jaw;

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each said movable jaw being pivotable between an open position with said receiver portions spaced from each other and a closed position with said receiver portions in opposed relation and forming said conduit receiver;

each said conduit receiver including multiple annular ribs each having a sawtooth-shaped cross-sectional configuration sloping towards the interior of said coupling tool and including an engagement edge adapted for engaging said conduit;

each said clamp assembly including a latch mechanism with a first component mounted on one of said jaws and a second component adapted for tightening on said first component and selectively engaging said movable jaw and retaining same in its closed position;

each said stationary jaw and said movable jaw including respective latch channels, which align with each other when said clamp assembly in its closed position

each said clamp assembly including a latch mechanism with a first component mounted on one of said jaws and a second component adapted for tightening on said first component and selectively engaging said movable jaw and retaining same in its closed position, said first component comprising a threaded latch bolt pivotally mounted on said stationary jaw and located in said latch channels with said clamp assembly in its closed position and said second component comprising a nut threadably mounted on said bolt and selectively engaging said movable jaw with said clamp assembly in its closed position;

each said clamp assembly including a transverse passage;

said coupling tool including an alignment rod with opposite ends and extending through said transverse passages and slidable with respect to at least one of said clamp assemblies,

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said alignment rod being adapted for aligning said clamp assemblies through the opening and closing of said coupling tool;
a pair of alignment rod retainers each mounted on a respective alignment rod end; and
said coupling tool including a pair of axles each mounted in a respective lever arm distal and rotatably mounting a respective clamp assembly, each said axle defining a respective rotational axis extending from front-to-back with respect to said tool.

Claims 13-20 (cancelled)